

Summary - Consumer Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 4, 2006
Bureau Headquarters
3485 Orange Grove Avenue, Suite A
North Highlands, CA 95660

Members Present:

Brian Stiger, Chair
Sharron Bradley
John McNeill
James Albers
Burt Grimes

Welcome

The meeting started at 10:10 a.m. with Brian Stiger, Bureau Chief, welcoming and introducing everyone in attendance. Council members Debra Brady, Kathleen Newman and Stan Greitzer were absent. Brian expressed his excitement about the next two years and his plan to conduct future meetings throughout the state in order to reach a broader audience.

Bureau Update

Brian Stiger gave a Bureau update consisting of Bureau history, structure, and enforcement strategies and statistics. There were discussions of new challenges, which included outsourcing laboratory testing, TB 604, a new facility for the bureau, the enforcement of 16 CFR 1633, and the loss of institutional memory. In regards to TB 604, an amenable list of products needs to be completed prior to going to rule. In addition, the Bureau is looking to have very few exemptions and strongly encourages industry feedback and suggestions.

There was also discussion on compliance monitoring of foam manufacturers. It was suggested and agreed that a sub-committee be organized to help develop the strategy to address this issue. James Albers and John McNeill agreed to be part of this sub-committee. John McNeill will create an e-log so that all committee members can contribute ideas and suggestions.

Advertising Project

Joanne Mikami, Bureau Compliance Manager, provided an update on the Bureau's advertising project. Current advertising issues being addressed are former price and "going-out-of-business sales". Council members advised the Bureau to utilize its Public Relations Unit in order to provide exposure to this new project. Council member Sharron Bradley offered to help the Bureau move forward with this new project and suggested that we submit an article regarding the advertising project to be published in the "Western Reporter". With the help of the council members, the Bureau will continue to progress on to other advertising issues.

New Federal Mattress Standard

Brian Stiger reported that the Bureau sent out a letter with information on 16 CFR 1633 to about 5,200 licensees on September 1, 2006. A copy of this letter is posted on the website. The Bureau will promulgate regulation to enforce this new standard and consult with CPSC on an enforcement strategy.

Inspection Process

Rick Diamond, Field Operations Manager, provided an overview of the inspection process and explained what to expect during an inspection, bureau inspection authority, the business responsibility, and different levels of inspection.

Future Meetings and Agenda Items

Meetings are scheduled to take place once a quarter. Future dates are set for December 13, 2006, March 21, 2007, and June 13, 2007. In addition to updates to previous discussions, potential agenda items include TB604 enforcement strategy, labeling issues, TB117 compliant foam and effective communication to manufacturers and to the public.

Brian Stiger also discussed the Bureau's plan to conduct a workshop for retailers to educate them in various areas. He also agreed to send a note to the State Fire Marshal's Office in regards to the council's concern on how statistics are being reported.

Brian Stiger adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.